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# Participles and Participial Phrases

## Teaching

A **participle** is a verbal that acts as an adjective. It modifies a noun or pronoun. There are two kinds of participles: present participles and past participles. The **present participle** always ends in *-ing*.

The listening crowd was still. (The present participle *listening* modifies *crowd*.)

The past participle of a regular verb ends in *-ed*. For irregular verbs such as *tell*, the past participle has a different ending.

The amused listeners laughed at the ending. (regular verb.)

That retold story is still funny. (irregular verb.)

A **participial phrase** consists of a participle plus its modifiers and complements.

The crowd, listening to the storyteller, was spellbound. (modifies *crowd*.)

Told in many versions, this story is still funny. (modifies *story*.)

Gerunds, present participles, and progressive verbs all end in *ing*. Here's how to tell them apart.

<b>Participle</b>	What is that <b>barking</b> sound?	Can be replaced by an adjective such as "loud"
<b>Gerund</b>	That <b>barking</b> is the neighbor's dog.	Can be replaced by a noun such as "noise"
<b>Verb</b>	The dog is <b>barking</b> at our cat.	Always preceded by a helping verb

## Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participle or participial phrase in each sentence. Underline twice the noun or pronoun that it modifies.

**EXAMPLE:** The plane, veering wildly, almost crashed to the ground.

1. The old flag, battered by wind and weather, was finally replaced.
2. Finished, the artists cleaned their brushes.
3. Exhausted, Victor fell to the ground after his long run.
4. The skaters, moving effortlessly, danced across the ice.
5. Crossing the old bridge, she passed the village store and the stable.
6. Nan, breathing deeply, bent her knees and lifted the box.
7. Leaving, Doug promised that he would be back.
8. The postal clerk, hurrying, placed the mail in the wrong place.
9. The promised troops did not arrive until it was too late.
10. The alarmed workers saw smoke and fled the factory.
11. The laughing children dashed onto the playground.
12. Cheering crowds welcomed home the winning team.

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# Participles and Participial Phrases

## More Practice

### A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

Underline the participle or participial phrase in each sentence. On the blank to the right, write the word that the participle or participial phrase modifies.

1. The art students, brought by bus, toured the museum. \_\_\_\_\_
2. The search party found the skiers huddled together. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The antique desk, collecting dust in a corner, is priceless. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Holding her torch aloft, the Statue of Liberty welcomes newcomers to the United States. \_\_\_\_\_
5. Graduation came at last for the exhausted students. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The letter, damaged in the mail, finally reached its destination. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Completed in record time, the new building was open for business. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The game show contestant, thinking hard about the question, didn't answer in time. \_\_\_\_\_
9. We watched the goldfish swimming in the pond. \_\_\_\_\_
10. Hiking briskly, we reached the mountain pass at noon. \_\_\_\_\_

### B. Distinguishing Between Gerunds and Participles

In each sentence, underline the verbal. On the line, label it as either a **Gerund** or a **Participle**. Underline twice the word each participle modifies.

1. Baking is a major project for the holidays. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Baking in the oven, the bread smelled delicious. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The burgers, sizzling on the grill, were almost ready. \_\_\_\_\_
4. Dressing up for parades is a family tradition. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The woman, dressed as a princess, has the lead in the play. \_\_\_\_\_
6. Seeing the accident, Lori helped the boy to his feet. \_\_\_\_\_
7. Seeing the old slides reminded me of the good times we had. \_\_\_\_\_
8. Talking is rude while the movie is on. \_\_\_\_\_
9. Talking among themselves, the actors missed their cues. \_\_\_\_\_
10. The dog, wagging its tail, eyed the steak. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Dropping the toy, the baby laughed. \_\_\_\_\_
12. Dancing takes strength and discipline. \_\_\_\_\_

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# Participles and Participial Phrases

## Application

### A. Identifying Participles and Participial Phrases

You are writing a fairy tale about knights, princesses, and fire-breathing dragons. Write sentences for the story using the following participles and participial phrases. (Use a comma after any participial phrase that begins a sentence.) Underline the word modified by each participle or participial phrase.

1. disguised \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. building a fortress \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. enraged \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. threatening the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. determined to save the kingdom \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### B. Using Present and Past Participles in Writing

The following story is missing several participles. The verbs that must be used in the participles are listed here. Choose the right verb for each blank, and write either the present participle or the past participle on the line, as needed.

worry	peep	accompany	
pretend	need	trust	defeat

The fox appears in many folktales. A hen, often \_\_\_\_\_ by a brood of chicks, is another stock character. \_\_\_\_\_ about her chicks, the hen looks for help. \_\_\_\_\_ the fox, she doesn't recognize him for what he really is. The hungry fox really wants to eat her and her \_\_\_\_\_ brood too. \_\_\_\_\_ to be harmless, the fox offers to help the hen out. The hen, \_\_\_\_\_ help, takes him up on his offer. Then, suddenly realizing her error, she escapes with her chicks. \_\_\_\_\_ at his own game, the fox heads back to his den still hungry.